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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Thomas J. Bachinski et al.  
Application No. : 09/406,575 Confirmation No. : 1763  
Filed : September 24, 1999  
For : MEDICAL GRAFTING CONNECTORS AND  
FASTENERS  
Group Art Unit : 3738  
Examiner : Paul B. Prebilic

New York, New York  
August 29, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

COMMUNICATION

This is responsive to the Office communication from the Examiner mailed August 13, 2003. Pursuant to a telephone conference with Examiner Prebilic on August 22, 2003, the following documents, which were timely filed on May 30, 2003 in the above-identified application, are transmitted herewith:

- (1) copy of Express Mail Mailing Label  
No. EV 242439345 US;
- (2) copies of two (2) checks in the amounts of  
(i) \$110.00 for a one-month extension of time, and  
(ii) \$750.00 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE);
- (3) copy of Express Mail Certification dated May 30, 2003 ;
- (4) copy of Request for Continued Examination (in duplicate);
- (5) copy of Reply to Final Office Action (with appendices A and B) dated May 30, 2003, which includes a

petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a one-month extension of time;

(6) copy of Fifth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement dated May 30, 2003;

(7) copy of Form PTO-1449 (in duplicate);

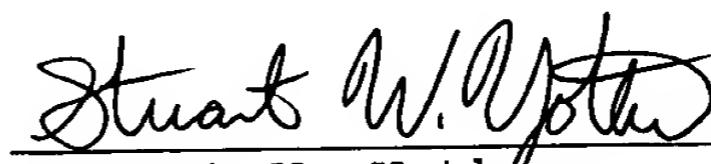
(8) copies of Fifty Seven (57) cited references; and

(9) copy of stamped and returned postcard dated May 30, 2003.

The postcard (item 9) was stamped by the Patent Office on May 30, 2003. Furthermore, the Express Mail Certification, the Request for Continued Examination, the Reply to Final Office Action, the Fifth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, the Form PTO-1449, and the postcard all bear evidence on their faces of being sent under Express Mail Mailing Label No. EV 242439345 US.

Accordingly, applicants have filed a fully responsive and timely response to the February 6, 2003 Office action. The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees required in connection with the paper(s) transmitted herewith, or to credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 06-1075. A duplicate copy of this communication is transmitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Stuart W. Yother  
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Agent for Applicants  
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*Confirmation No. 1763*

New York, New York 10020  
May 30, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop RCE  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATION

"Express Mail" Mailing Label No. EV242439345US  
Date of Deposit May 30, 2003

I hereby certify that this certification and the  
following papers and fees:

1. Request for Continued Examination (2 pp. - in  
duplicate);
2. Reply to Final Office Action (161 pp.);
3. Fifth Supplemental Information Disclosure  
Statement (4 pp.);
4. Form PTO-1449 (3 pp., in duplicate);
5. Copies of Fifty-seven (57) Cited References;
6. Checks in the amount of \$750.00 and \$110.00;  
and
7. Return postcard.

are being deposited with the United States Postal Service  
"EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37  
C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and are addressed to  
Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Claire J. Saint-Vincent Goodman

DOCKET NO. 00293.008

CONFIRMATION NO. 1763

APPLICANT Thomas J. Bachinski et al.

APPLICATION NO. 09/406,575 FILED September 24, 1999

RECEIPT IS HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGED OF THE

Request for Continued Examination (2pp. - in duplicate); Reply to Final Office Action (161pp.); Fifth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement ( 4 pp.); Form PTO-1449 (3 pp. - in duplicate); Copies of Fifty Seven (67) Cited References; and checks in the amount of \$750.00 and \$110.00.

DATED May 30, 2003 EV 242439345 US

FILED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE CASE.

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

00293.008 SWY:mjc

